

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

30 JANUARY 1964

~~TOP SECRET~~

1. South Vietnam

a. This morning's bloodless coup in Saigon was undertaken to checkmate certain leading generals alleged by the coup leaders to be receptive to French proposals for a neutralized South Vietnam. The coup group, friendly to the US, also felt that the war effort was lagging.

b. Today's coup was led by General Nguyen Khanh, commander of the I Military Corps in the north. He had the direct support of General Khiem, who commands the corps area surrounding Saigon, and the agreement of the other corps commanders.

c. The coup leaders seem to have been particularly suspicious of the strong French ties of Generals Don and Kim, who had been relying on generals recently returned from France while leaving the corps commanders out in the cold.

d. Khanh has assumed the top position formerly held by "Big" Minh. Khanh is a vigorous military man with little political experience. He has said he will look to the US Embassy for guidance. Khiem will take over Don's job as armed forces commander.

(Cont'd)

e. Minh, Don, Kim, the ambitious Minister of Interior Ton That Dinh, and police director Xuan [redacted] are all under arrest.

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f. Minh's refusal--so far--to lend his considerable prestige to the new order is a clear liability.

g. The changeover comes at a time when Minh's junta was just beginning to get its counterinsurgency effort rolling. This effort is bound to suffer at least temporary dislocation, and the Viet Cong may again take advantage of the confusion.

2. Cyprus

a. The talks in London are still limping along.

b. Turkey has joined Greece in agreeing to establish an inter-allied police force. However, the Greeks think the Greek and Turkish contingents on the island could then be removed, while the Turks contend that at least the Turkish one would have to be reinforced.

(Cont'd)

c. The situation in and around Nicosia has lost none of its tenseness. Ambassador Wilkins, who visited several leading Turkish Cypriots in their enclave the other day, found them in a state of "traumatic shock" with absolutely no confidence in the Greek Cypriots.

d. Makarios, who is being difficult about an international peace-keeping force, is trying to create the impression that he has arranged for some sort of Soviet support.

e. What the Soviets are actually up to is pretty murky, but we suspect they are egging him on.

f. The Greek Government is getting a bit fed up with Makarios.

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3. East Africa

a. The highly unstable atmosphere in Zanzibar favors a Communist takeover.

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c. Zanzibar could thus turn into a most useful Communist base from which to fund, arm and direct the sort of thing that happened in Zanzibar anywhere from the Horn to the Cape.

d. This has not been lost on the leaders of the three mainland states. They all suspect that the Chinese Communists and the Cubans had a hand in their own troubles.

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4. China-France

a. The China recognition tangle stayed on dead center yesterday. The next round may not be fired until De Gaulle's press conference tomorrow.

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b. The Chinese Nationalists are sitting tight but are not easy. There is still a strong feeling in Taipei circles that a break with the "perfidious and deceptive" French will be necessary.

c. We are not entirely clear how the French got caught in their present bind.

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d. The French experience seems to be giving other countries second thoughts. Lopez Mateos, for example, now says that there will be no diplomatic relations with Peiping while he is President of Mexico, which will be until December.

e. The Ethiopians, who have been most tempted, now say that their decision depends on the outcome of Haile Selassie's talks with Chou beginning today.

5. Panama

a. The next few days in Panama may see a quickening in the tempo of violence and sabotage against US installations.

b. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] at least two extremist groups will have a hand in this. One of them has received several months' training in Cuba.

c. Panamanians who can afford to leave are preparing to do so in increasing numbers.

d. On the diplomatic front, Chiari shows every sign of accepting the pressure put upon him from all sides to "hold fast."

e. He seems also to have accepted advice to drop bilateral talks with the US. At least he has asked for an emergency OAS meeting to air his complaints.

f. He has been trying to line up support for such a step for the past several days. Several OAS members showed reluctance, but most will probably agree to a meeting in the end.

[REDACTED]

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6. Indonesia-Malaysia

a. The five-day cease-fire in Borneo is showing its fragility.

b. Already the Malaysians have charged the Indonesians with violating it.

c. U Thant, concerned that such an incident may wreck the tripartite talks in Bangkok, has once again urged the countries concerned to ask specifically that he appoint observers to keep an eye on the cease-fire.

d. A date has not been fixed for the talks,

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7. Congo

a. What started as leftist demonstrations in Stanleyville last week led to a mutiny by elements of the local gendarmarie.

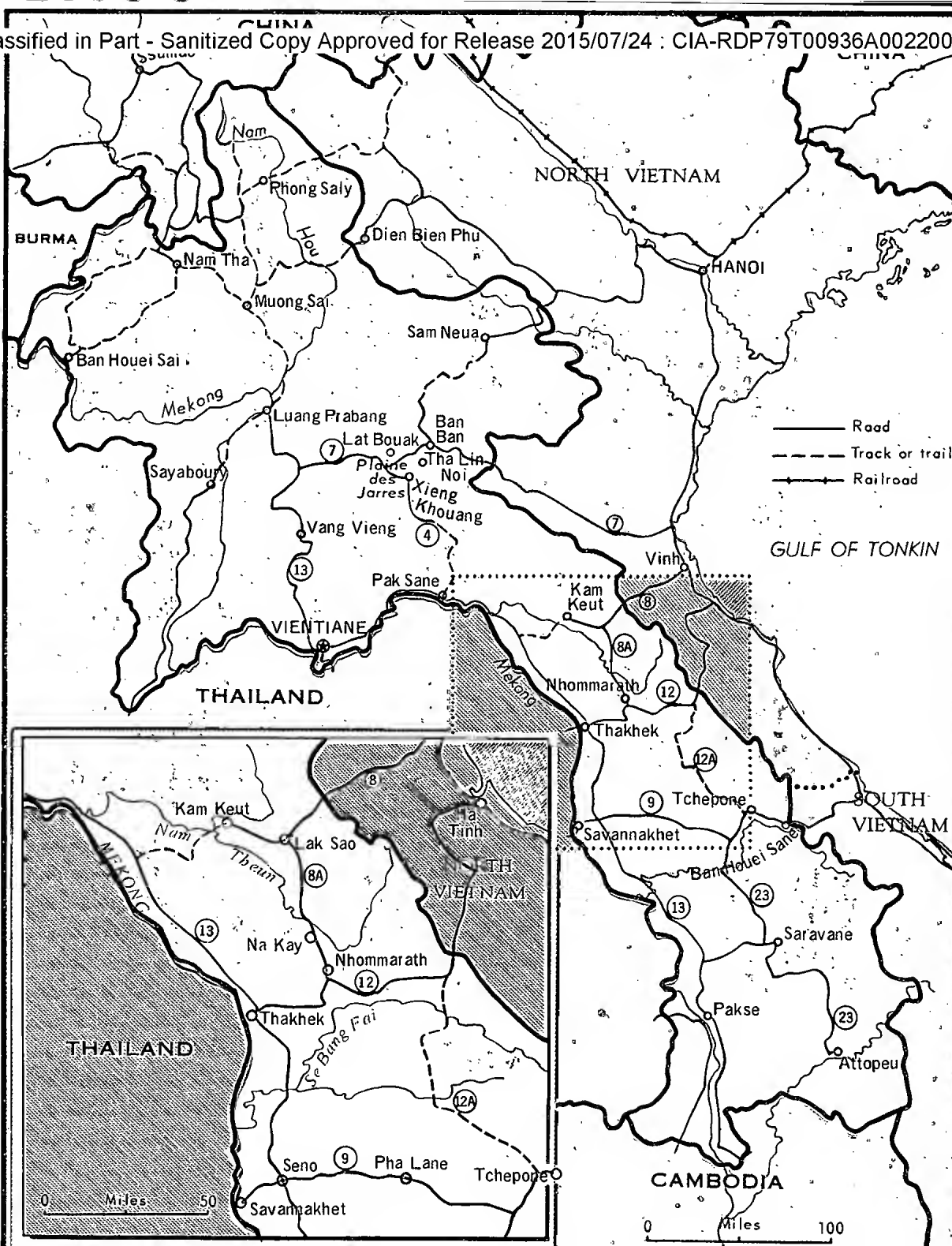
b. The Congolese Army had to move in to disarm the mutineers. The entire gendarmarie unit has been confined to camp, and Stanleyville itself is under a dawn-to-dusk curfew.

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c. We have not established a direct connection between the trouble in Stanleyville and the guerrilla warfare in Kwilu Province, but we suspect there is one.

d. Leopoldville has been slow in responding to the threat in Kwilu.

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NOTES



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- B. Communist China - USSR Communist China could be free of its long-standing debt to the Soviet Union by year's end. Peiping's export surplus in its trade with the USSR last year was large enough to reduce the debt by half.
- C. North Vietnam - USSR Hanoi is sending a high-powered delegation of party leaders to Moscow to exchange views with the Soviets on matters of "common concern." Among these are certain to be issues at dispute with the Chinese, and the trip could be yet another Soviet attempt to rescue Hanoi from Peiping's clutches.
- D. Laos The Pathet Lao, with North Vietnamese support, have gained control over the key Na Kay area in south-central Laos. As usual, the rightist/neutralist forces abandoned their positions in the area in the face of Communist pressures.
- E. Burma Ethnic minority resistance to the Ne Win regime, always a problem, appears to have taken a turn for the worse in the last two months. There have been a series of recent shooting scrapes between the Burmese Army and the insurgents involving more than a hundred men on each side.

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